

Frequently Asked Questions About Jury Service During COVID-19

1. Is the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska conducting jury trials during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes. The court will resume jury trials on or about Monday, July 6, 2020.

2. What steps is the court taking to create a safer environment in the courthouse?

Some of the precautions the court is taking include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Report times will be staggered to assist with social distancing.
- Jurors, court employees, and anyone having business with the court will be required to check their temperature when entering the building.
- Juror check-in will take place in a different room that will provide adequate space for social distancing.
- For the jury selection process, jurors will be divided into two courtrooms with 6-foot social distancing.
- Seating with 6-foot social distancing will be marked for chairs and the benches in the courtrooms throughout the trial.
- Pursuant to General Order No. 2020-10, all persons in a federal courthouse in Nebraska shall wear a face covering in **public** areas. If permission is granted by the court, face coverings may not be mandatory once jurors are physically distanced and appropriately seated in the courtroom. You may bring your own face covering, or the court will provide you with one when entering the building.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the courthouse and the courtrooms.
- The courtrooms will be cleaned and sanitized at the end of each day.
- Bottled water will be provided.
- Amenities such as refrigerators, microwaves, and Keurig machines are available for jurors' use. However, use of these items is discouraged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. What phone number or email address should I use if I have specific questions related to jury service during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Jurors reporting to Omaha	omaha-jury@ned.uscourts.gov 1-866-220-4381, option 6
Jurors reporting to Lincoln	lincoln-jury@ned.uscourts.gov 1-866-220-4379, option 6
Jurors reporting to North Platte	northplatte@ned.uscourts.gov 1-866-220-4381, option 6

4. Will I be required to wear a face covering?

Yes, pursuant to General Order No. 2020-10, all persons in a federal courthouse in Nebraska—including Court personnel, lawyers, parties, jurors, and members of the public—shall wear a face covering in public spaces in the courthouse, including but not limited to hallways, elevators and stairwells, public restrooms, lobbies, and reception areas. A 6-foot distance from others shall also be maintained whenever feasible.

5. May I use my own face covering?

Yes, if it covers both your nose and mouth and is effective to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

6. If I don't have a mask or face covering, will the court provide one?

Yes, a mask will be provided to jurors and any person who has legitimate business with the Court.

7. What can I do to help provide a safe environment while serving on jury service?

If you report to the courthouse for jury service, consider the following:

- Keep all personal items separated from other jurors' items;
- Wash hands frequently and use hand sanitizer often;
- 6-foot social distance from others;
- Wear a face covering in all public areas of the courthouse;
- Limit the personal transfer of documents between you and court staff when possible. If you stayed in a hotel before reporting or throughout the trial, email the hotel receipt within two business days to the jury clerk at omaha-jury@ned.uscourts.gov or lincoln-jury@ned.uscourts.gov;

8. What do I do if I exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or find out I have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 during jury service?

Please do not report to the courthouse. We ask that you email or call the jury clerk as soon as possible:

Jurors reporting to Omaha	omaha-jury@ned.uscourts.gov 1-866-220-4381, option 6
Jurors reporting to Lincoln	lincoln-jury@ned.uscourts.gov 1-866-220-4379, option 6
Jurors reporting to North Platte	northplatte@ned.uscourts.gov 1-866-220-4381, option 6

9. Will there be screening of persons entering the courthouse?

Yes. Pursuant to General Order No. 2020-11, the Court Security Officers shall inquire of every person entering the courthouse whether they have reviewed the following risk factors and whether they come within any of these categories:

- a. Has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is presently exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, including:
 - fever of 100.4°F or above,
 - a sudden onset of a cough or shortness of breath, or
 - a new loss of taste or smell;
- b. Has had contact within the last 14 days with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- c. Has traveled internationally within the last 14 days, or lives with someone who has; or
- d. Has been asked to self-quarantine by any health care provider or public official.

10. Will there be temperature checks for persons entering the courthouse?

Yes. Jurors, court employees, and anyone having business with the court will be required to check their temperature when entering the building.